

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1905.

The Maximum Tax Bill.

The maximum tax bill, passed in the closing hours of the Legislature, which fixes the tax rate at \$1.70 on each \$100 in the large cities in this State, and cannot exceed this amount unless authorized by a vote of the people, has created quite a stir among officials of Jersey City and Newark. Those of the latter city declare that they cannot carry on its business affairs at such a low rate with the present valuations. The valuations in Newark last year were \$173,000,000, and if the rate is not to exceed \$1.70, the officials say that the valuations will have to be increased to \$200,000,000, and perhaps more. The law department contends that the act is unconstitutional for various reasons, and insists that if it were contested in the courts it would be so declared. Carl Lantz, the President of the recently established State Board of Equalization of Taxes, met with the financial managers of Newark some days ago, and endeavored to prove that not only is the new law not pernicious and impracticable, but that it may be operated in that city with positive and lasting benefit to the municipality and the taxpayers. After Major Lantz had thoroughly explained the objects of the bill, the city officials concluded that they would give it a trial, notwithstanding their former intention to contest it in the courts. However, there is still considerable uneasiness apparent among the financiers, and they are still discussing the feasibility of the law. The Newark Board of Trade, which is composed of influential business men, has also taken a hand in the matter, and has also been most active and prominent one of its recent meetings of that members at a recent meeting of that body strongly denounced the bill as having been passed in the interests of the railroads.

On the other hand, there is considerable doubt expressed by the opponents of the measure as to whether or not the bill was passed by the Senate. Senator Bacheller (Republican) of this county and Senator Minton (Democrat) of Hudson county emphatically declare that it was never regularly passed by the upper branch of the Legislature, while the official records show that it did pass that body, and that it was duly signed by the presiding officer. The opponents of the measure say that the only way to find out whether the bill was regularly passed would be to have an investigation made by the courts.

The opponents of the bill also declare that it was enacted for the benefit of the railroads, and say that when the subject was before the House of Assembly the entire railroad lobby was found urging its passage. It is also said that so active were these corporation "legislative agents," and so energetic were they in seeking for votes, that there was no one in the State House who was not fully informed as to the situation.

According to the provisions of the bill the tax rate must be kept down to \$1.50 in the country districts, and to \$1.70 in cities of 50,000 population and over. In case these provisions are carried out, it is declared that the valuations must be raised, and more important still, property that has heretofore escaped paying taxes must be discovered, and property that has not paid its full share of the public burdens must be assessed at its fair valuation. Heretofore, it is further stated, the small property owner—the man with a little home of his own—has been obliged to pay more than his proportion of taxes, while the large holders of real estate and other property have been the ones favored. But under the maximum law, it is contended, the assessors will be compelled to assess discrimination, and to search carefully for hidden values in order to raise the amount of money needed for the purposes of government.

Gov. Stokes is not at all pleased with the manner in which the maximum tax law has been criticized, and he declares his intention of going into every county and town throughout the State before the next fall election to explain the question. He says that the expenses of the cities of New Jersey are from fifty to one hundred per cent. too large, and should be scaled down. When the officials, he says, are required to give reasons for projected increases, they will hesitate about doing reckless things with the public funds.

FORTIFICATIONS.

They Play Out a Secondary Role in the Defense of States.

A fortress spells immobility and dispersion. We should therefore look askance at it until proof is given that it has a definite purpose to fulfill in a reasoned scheme of strategy. We must not allow ourselves to be led away by the glamour surrounding a heroic defense. We must look to the end and leave panegyrics to poets. We must, in short, regard all fortification as an auxiliary and nothing more. A fortress, because it is a fortress and because it is ours, is not necessarily an advantage and may be the reverse. If we gain battles we gain the enemy's fortresses; if we lose them we gain ours, whether they are in the interior or upon the sea. In each case the larger the fortress, the greater the disaster. Fortresses, add, in fact, all fortifications, have never played anything but a secondary role in the defense of States, and no nation has ever yet been saved by them. They can as auxiliaries occasionally assist an army and they can aid naval capital, wisely invested and wisely used, to bear splendid interest, but they can never re-establish moral superiority when once it is lost nor create it by the virtue of attaching to its parapets if it does not exist. Over the portals of the fortress or harbor of refuge should be written in the largest and blackest of characters the words that Dante discovered over the gates of hell—Military Cor. London Times.

VALOR AND HEROISM.

Proof That the Real Brand of It Exists in South America.

"Every country has its heroes, and it is refreshing to read something of the heroic in the history of the countries south of us," said a thoughtful man. "In a history of South America attention is called to a number of things which tend to show that the popular estimate of valor and heroism in that section of the world may not be altogether the correct one. It is related that once the Peruvian monitor Huascar fought against three Chilean ships. "After both Admiral Grau and his flag lieutenant were killed Captain Aguirre took command, was killed, and then succeeded by Captain Carballo, who was put hors de combat by a shell. The command devolved then on Lieutenant Rodriguez, who was killed; then on Lieutenant Palacios, who was disabled, and finally Lieutenant Gareyón, with the ship on fire, three feet of water in the hold and with a loss of half his officers and crew, was forced to strike his flag. On July 23, 1879, the Huascar was in action against the Chilean ship Abtao. Torpedoes at that time were not much understood, and one, being fired from the Huascar, through faulty mechanism returned back straight upon the ship. Seeing this and knowing that if the ship was struck she must sink, Lieutenant Diaz Canoso jumped overboard and in the water with his hands altered its course just before it came in contact with the ship."

Easter in St. Paul's.

Under the direction of George J. Brewer, choirmaster, and C. Jackson Wambaugh, organist, the following music will be rendered to-morrow in St. Paul's Church, East Orange: Processional, "The Day of Resurrection," Martin; Easter anthems, "Christ Our Passover," Hayes; Kyrie, Creed, Foster in C; hymns, "Jesus Christ is Risen To-day," Carey; anthem, "Break Forth Into Joy," Barnby; Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei, Gloria in Excelsis, Staggell in A; recessional, "The Strife is O'er," Palestrina.

Civic Union's Special Meeting.

The Civic Union will hold a special meeting on Wednesday evening in the Essex County Building and Loan Hall to receive the report of the committee appointed to investigate the water supply question. Members of the Town Council are invited to meet with the Union.

Important Real Estate Deal.

The Glen Ridge Land Company has been organized for the purpose of taking over the property formerly known as St. James Lutheran Cemetery. The cemetery will hereafter be known as the Glen Ridge Cemetery.

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ANIMALS' WANDERINGS.

Country Mouse and Town Mouse Have Foundation in Fact.

The fable of the country mouse and the town mouse has a foundation in fact. Mice occasionally migrate in large numbers when food grows scarce and travel considerable distances to fresh houses. Farmers in a part of Perthshire had a good reason to become aware of this fact when a couple of years ago vast swarms of mice invaded their cornfields at harvest time.

But the mouse only travels when it has to. The rat, on the contrary, seems to take a yearly outing, in very much the same fashion as do human beings. Rats are the most migratory creatures in the world. Troops of rats leave the towns at the end of summer and spend a month or two in the country, apparently in order to enjoy the change of food which the country affords at that time of the year in the way of fresh fruit and grain. Before the cold weather sets in they are all back again in their old quarters.

Reindeer migrate with the same regularity as swallows. They move south when winter sets in, but as soon as ever the snow begins to melt they travel steadily north, sometimes for as much as a thousand miles.

To end a holiday by deliberate suicide is so strange a phenomenon that for a long time naturalists looked upon the stories of the migration of the lemmings as an improbable fiction. Yet the facts are beyond dispute. At irregular intervals these ratlike creatures start out from their homes in the fastnesses of northern Scandinavia in huge droves numbering tens of thousands and travel steadily southward. Death pursues them in a hundred forms. Hawks and other birds of prey hover above them. Thousands are drowned in rivers. Yet the rest struggle on until they reach the sea. They do not stop. They plunge in, swim out and struggle on until at last their strength fails and they drown. Not one ever returns from this journey of death.—London Answers.

COTTON IN A FABRIC.

How to Tell if Worsted or Woolen Cloth Is Adulterated.

Worsted cloths are less often adulterated than woollens and are more easily detected. A cotton worsted is a lie on the face of it, for the cotton stands out with prominence. But often a cotton thread is twisted with a worsted thread, and to determine its presence it is only necessary to take the twist out of the thread and then examine its component parts.

Cotton, having a long staple, can be carded and combed with wool to be spun into worsted yarn. This is done to cheapen the cost of production. Cotton is carded and spun with wool and shoddy, not so much to cheapen the yarn, for cotton is generally as expensive as some shoddies, but is introduced to give strength or spinning qualities to the stock. In many cases the shoddy is of such short staple that it would not stand the drawing in spinning, and as it would make the cost of the yarn too high to put in enough wool to give that lacking strength, cotton is put in for this purpose.

The percentage of cotton in a fabric can be determined in this manner: Take a small piece of cloth and weigh it. Now boil it for five minutes in a 5 per cent solution of caustic soda. Take out what is left, and, if any, it is all cotton. The wool will all be dissolved. The percentage of shoddy cannot be determined except by experience.

A cloth or yarn with shoddy in it is easily detected by its feel. Cloth made of all new wool is softer feeling than one containing shoddy, for the latter has lost that new, soft, springy feel peculiar to wool.—American Wool and Cotton Reporter

The Next Telephone Directory

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The Presbytery of New York has commended the work of Rev. Henry J. Weber of the German Theological Seminary in securing an endowment fund for the institution. At a meeting of the Presbytery, early in the week, a resolution was offered by Rev. Dr. Millan "commending the seminary to the generosity of Presbyterian givers within the bounds of the Presbytery of New York."

After the resolution was passed a friend of the institution in New York subscribed \$500, and another friend in New Jersey, who desires his name withheld, has subscribed \$2,500 within the last few days, so that the seminary now has subscriptions amounting to more than \$45,000.

Fell from a Wagon.

A serious accident occurred on Broad street, near James, on Monday, when Charles Asay, employed as a teamster by Joseph Van Dusen of Brookdale, fell from the seat of his wagon to the street and sustained a severe cut on his forehead over the right eye. Spectators of the accident carried the injured man into Hallinan's Hotel. Dr. Moore responded to the call for a physician, and dressed the man's wound. It is surmised that the driver was asleep and was jolted from the wagon seat.

Prima Orations.

The prima orations of the academic department of the German Theological Seminary will be held in the German Presbyterian Church May 3. Those who will graduate and enter the theological department next fall are Ernest Haesel, Orange; Albert Hahn, Bloomfield; J. K. Stadelmann and Henry Schaefer of Philadelphia. The address to the graduates will be given by William E. Waters, professor of Greek and literature in the University of New York.

Assembly Nominee.

It has been officially settled that the Republican nomination for Assemblyman from this section of Essex County will be a Nutley man. Freeholder Clark of Nutley is said to be the likely nominee.



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